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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,237	12/23/2004	Shizue Itou	1217-045843	2512
28289	7590	09/03/2009	EXAMINER	
THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C.			MISKA, VIT W	
700 KOPPERS BUILDING				
436 SEVENTH AVENUE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219			2833	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/03/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/519,237	ITOU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vit W. Miska	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2009.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-32,35,36,39,40 and 43-80 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-30,32,36,40,43-45,47-80 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 31,35,39 and 46 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 31, 35, 39 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Megner et al (6411569) in view of Endo et al (6992952) . Megner et al disclose a radio controlled watch comprising: an antenna 28 for receiving a radio wave including time information (col. 3, line 42); a watch device 24 for causing a display portion to display time information such as a present time (col. 3, line 42) by the radio wave received by the antenna; and a watch case 13 for accommodating the antenna and the watch device, wherein the watch case is constituted by a metal (see col. 2, line 59), wherein the antenna is provided part from the watch case (see Fig. 1), wherein the watch case is made from steel or titanium (col. 2, line 54).

2. Megner et al do not disclose a metallic back cover 16. However, it is conventional to provide a metallic case with a metallic back cover in a radio wristwatch, as shown in Endo et al in Fig. 6 with metal case 212a (col. 17, line 7) and a back cover

213c of metal (col. 19, line 56). It would be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to replace back cover 16 of Megner et al with a metallic back cover, as suggested by Endo et al, to provide durability to the watch, if reduced reception quality were not a factor in design considerations. The specific metals claimed for the back cover are conventional materials used in timepiece cases, as disclosed in Megner et al.

3. Megner et al does not set forth the dimensions of watch case 13, the back cover, or the gaps between the case, antenna and back cover.

Regarding the gaps D1 and D2, Megner et al disclose gaps as seen in Fig. 1 between the back cover 16 and antenna 28 and between the case 13 and antenna 28. The placement of the antenna with respect to the metallic casing and the back cover would be an obvious design matter for one of ordinary skill in the art selected on the basis of the optimum reception of signals achieved. One of ordinary skill in the art would be familiar with interference caused by a metallic casing and select a suitable spacing gap to provide sufficient reception quality with the selected watch dimensions. Applicant discloses in the specification a wide range for gap D2, from 0 to 5000 microns, and D1, from 0 to 40,000 microns, thus suggesting that any dimension within these ranges is not critical. Absent any unobvious criticality, the gap dimensions claimed are considered obvious design criteria.

4. With respect to the thickness of the casing and back cover, these dimensions, absent unobvious criticality, are considered design criteria that one skilled in the art would select to achieve optimum radio reception, with consideration of the aesthetic design of the watch. Again, applicant's claimed range of 300-5000 microns for the watch case thickness, and 100-5000 microns for the back cover thickness, suggests non-criticality. Thus, one skilled in the art would select appropriate dimensions in Megner et al to achieve the most favorable reception quality and aesthetic appearance.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments have been given careful consideration, but have not been found persuasive. Applicant notes that Megner et al lack a metallic back cover and the gap dimensions claimed. However, as noted above and as indicated previously, the back cover may be made of metal, as conventional in the timepiece art and as shown in Endo et al. Further, the dimensions of the gaps claimed do not present any criticality, but merely selection of optimum ranges for proper radio reception, and thus lack patentable subject matter.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vit W. Miska whose telephone number is 571-272-2108. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee Luebke can be reached on 571-272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vit W. Miska/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2833